

Application Serial No. 10/518,890
Amendment dated November 9, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated August 10, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (new): A method for handling short messages under phone number portability between several telecommunications networks, where the phone numbers do not permit an unambiguous linkage of the user to a specific telecommunication network, comprising the steps of :

determining parameters or data required for a delivery of a short message from a sending entity to a recipient;

storing the parameters or data required for delivery together with a short message to be delivered in a short message service center (SMSC) handling the transaction;

performing a first attempt at delivery based on the parameters or data required for delivery; and

if the short message was not delivered successfully, performing at least a subsequent attempt at delivery by reusing the parameters or data required for delivery stored in the SMSC, at least in part; and

if the short message is delivered successfully, erasing the short message and the parameters and data required for delivery from the SMSC.

Claim 8 (new): The method according to Claim 7, and temporarily storing the short message to be delivered and the HLR address of a home register HLR containing the required parameters or data obtained during the first attempt at delivery in the SMSC involved in the transaction.

Claim 9 (new): The method according to Claim 8, and having the required parameters or data contained in the HLR queried directly from the HLR by use of the HLR address stored in the SMSC during subsequent attempts at delivery.

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Claim 10 (new): The method according to Claim 9, characterized by having the query of the HLR use an SS7 channel.

Claim 11 (new): The method according to Claim 7, and having the required parameters or data contained in the HLR queried directly from the HLR by use of the HLR address stored in the SMSC during subsequent attempts at delivery.

Claim 12 (new): A system to handle short messages under phone number portability between multiple telecommunications networks, where the phone numbers do not permit an unambiguous linkage of the user to a specific telecommunication network and where several attempts at delivery of the short messages are possible, and where the parameters or data required for delivery of the short message are determined during the first attempt at delivery, said system comprising:

storage space reserved to store all or part of the parameters or data relating to the first attempt at delivery in a short message service center (SMSC) involved in the transaction, where such storage space is associated with a temporary storage location housing the short message to be delivered, and where the stored parameters or data required for delivery are stored for use at least in part in subsequent attempts at delivery; and

means for erasing the short message and the parameters and the parameters or data required for delivery when the short message is delivered successfully.